

FLOODS CREEP UP AROUND PITTSBURG

River is Rising at the Rate of a Foot an Hour.

DANGER POINT AT 12 TODAY

Many Ice Gorges Threaten to Break at Any Moment.

CONSIDERABLE DAMAGE DONE

Rain Is Still Falling on the Watershed of the Allegheny—Freshet Stage at Points Up Stream.

PITTSBURG, Pa., February 15.—With a stage of nineteen feet at 9 o'clock this morning and rising at the rate of a foot an hour the Allegheny, Monongahela, Ohio, Youghiogheny and Kiskiminnick rivers are slowly spreading over the lowlands of Pittsburgh and western Pennsylvania points today.

The danger mark of twenty-two feet will be reached by noon, and the local United States weather bureau predicts a stage of thirty feet by nightfall. Rain continues to fall today.

The damage to river craft and property located near the river is already heavy. Large ice gorges in the Allegheny and Youghiogheny rivers, above this city, are momentarily expected to break, wrecking and demolishing craft in its path. Some alarm is also felt for a number of bridges.

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FLOODS IN BUFFALO.

Worst Condition of Affairs in Many Years.

Special Dispatch to The Star.

BUFFALO, N. Y., February 15.—The worst food in years prevails at South Buffalo today. Thousands of acres of land, much of it residence property, is buried under the water and hundreds of citizens are being taken to dry places in rowboats which are rowed along the residence streets. There is much suffering and the rain of the past few days continues. Such residents as cannot leave their homes because they have no other refuge are trying to keep a room or two warm with lamps and oil stoves. All furnace fires in the flooded district were put out early last night, the cellars, of course, being flooded with water. It is believed that much sickness will follow the flood, particularly among the small children, by reason of the exposure to which they have been subjected and the lack of fires.

Forced to Use Dynamite.

The flood is due to several causes. The snowfall in Buffalo a week ago was enormous. Then came intensely cold weather which formed a thick ice in Buffalo river. There has been much weather with much rain the past few days in Buffalo and in the country along the upper reaches of Buffalo river.

All this combined to produce the flood. The ice in the river became jammed and formed a natural dam. Efforts are now being made by city employees to break the dam by dynamite, but as yet this work has had no perceptible influence on the flood.

Certain portions of north Buffalo along the course of the Schuylkill creek are also flooded. In some places the water in this stream has risen fourteen feet and remains practically stationary. Thousands of manufacturing plants throughout the south and north Buffalo districts have been obliged to shut down and untold damage is being done by the waters.

Snow Plows Were Stalled.

Pavements are being torn up, fences swept away and sidewalks displaced. Everything that could float and that was not anchored has been swept away. Flood conditions began to develop last evening, and by midnight all travel throughout the south Buffalo flooded district was at a standstill.

Efforts were made to run giant snow plows through the district, but even these were put out of commission before morning.

So far there have been no casualties. Some live stock has been destroyed and a few outhouses and barns have been torn away, but the dwelling houses will be able to withstand the flood.

Brief dispatches from various parts of western New York are to the effect that similar flood conditions prevail there also, particularly in certain parts of the Genesee valley.

AMERICAN CAR LEADS

PROGRESS OF THE GLOBE-GIRDLING AUTOMOBILE RACE.

AUBURN, N. Y., February 15.—The three leading cars in the New York to Paris race passed through this city this afternoon. The American car was the first to arrive, at 10:40 o'clock. The machinery was clogged, and the car was thoroughly overhauled and a new tire was put on a front wheel. The start was made at 11:30.

The Italian car arrived at 11:40, and after taking in a supply of gasoline it left at 12:48 without making any stop.

The French car passed through the city at 12:48 without making any stop.

ROME, N. Y., February 15.—The German car of the New York to Paris automobile race passed through here at 11:50.

SYRACUSE, N. Y., February 15.—The American car in the New York to Paris race registered here at 8:47, going on after a wait of only seven minutes.

The French car, driven by St. Chaffray, followed at 9:20, and the Italian car at 9:55, neither of these stopping to register.

SCHENECTADY, N. Y., February 15.—The French car, driven by Godard, in the New York to Paris automobile race arrived here at 9 o'clock and went into a garage for an hour for readjustment of its motor. It proceeded west by the Erie canal towpath at 10 o'clock.

UTICA, N. Y., February 15.—The German car on the New York to Paris automobile race left this city this morning at 8:15 and will continue to follow the towpath of the Erie canal. Highways are in worse condition than yesterday, as it rained all night, and the roads are next to impassable.

NEEDLES A SHARP ONE.

Student Husband Missing With His Wife's Funds.

Special Dispatch to The Star.

PHILADELPHIA, February 15.—Frank B. Needles, a second-year student in the dental department of the University of Pennsylvania, has been missing from his home, 5416 Spruce street, since Wednesday morning.

His disappearance was reported to the police today by his pretty bride of a few months. He left home Wednesday morning, asserting that he had to attend an early lecture at the university, and his wife had only \$5 with which to meet current expenses.

"I gave him last August, under compulsion, a draft for \$2,900," said Mrs. Needles today, "which represented all the money I had, and which he said was to deposit in my name. But he deposited it in his own name, instead, never letting me know that he had done so until the morning he went away."

Taft in New England.

Special Dispatch to The Star.

NEW YORK, February 15.—Secretary Taft arrived in this city this morning from West Point, where he yesterday distributed the diplomas to the Military Academy graduating class. He remained here only a couple of hours before boarding a train for Hartford. He will make several speeches in New England next week.

Fields Are Inundated.

LEMA, Ohio, February 15.—Both Ottawa and Auglaize rivers are out of their banks in this city, and families in the lowlands are moving to second stories.

The wheat and oil fields in the western part of the county are flooded by the Auglaize. Railway traffic is seriously delayed as a result of the high water.

Kentucky Wet Once More.

LEXINGTON, Ky., February 15.—Streams throughout eastern Kentucky are rising rapidly as a result of the four-day rain, and great damage is feared by



TORNADO CUTS A PATH

Village of Mossville, Miss., Almost Wiped Out.

ONLY FOUR HOUSES REMAIN

Town Scattered Over Four Miles of Territory.

LOSS WILL BE OVER \$2,000,000

Not Yet Known Just How Many People Were Killed, But There Are Several.

MOSSVILLE, Miss., February 15.—Four whole buildings and a portion of buildings are the only habitable abodes in this village today. The remainder of the structures were blown down and many of them swept outside of the town by the force of the tornado. Two old negroes, Alec Windham and his wife, are dead, and Edward Campbell, white, is probably fatally injured.

Of the dozen other persons painfully injured at this place are rapidly recovering. Reports reaching here from other towns in the tornado's path give not to exceed five other fatalities, only one of which has been confirmed.

The buildings left standing here are two residences, a cotton gin and a school house. The buildings which the storm cut in two are the Gulf and Ship Island railroad depot and a residence.

Frecks of the Wind.

The stationmaster happened to be in the half of the depot which was left standing and was scarcely disturbed when the other half of his habitation went down in a heap and then flew away piecemeal.

The inhabitants of Mossville claim that their village was scattered at least over four miles of territory, this statement being based on the identification of a hatchet picked up by a farmer four miles from a store in the village. The contents of this store were scattered over at least half a mile of ground in the direction taken by the wind.

Sturdy crops were uprooted in the main streets of the town. The tornado cut a swath several miles long through the timber and almost every other obstruction on the face of the country. Those who have been out in this storm's trail state that the loss may reach several hundred thousand dollars.

Death in the Floods.

The towns of Soso and Service were partly wrecked by the same tornado and it is reported that another small town, Epps, was badly damaged.

Owing to swollen streams, washed out bridges and fallen wires few definite reports have come from these places. At Service it is known that a small daughter of Isaac Holloway was killed, and it is reported that a man and a woman and two children also were killed.

Floods Follow the Storm.

HATTIESBURG, Miss., February 15.—Leaf river is over its banks at this city, and a rise of three feet above the danger line is predicted by tomorrow. Residents in the low-lying sections of the city are making preparations to move.

The railroad wires are down in every direction as a result of yesterday's storm. The Gulf and Ship Island road has fifteen freight cars derailed in a washout twelve miles north of here.

Torpedo Boats at Montt.

PUERTO MONTT, Chile, February 15.—The United States torpedo destroyer flotilla arrived yesterday after a safe and pleasant passage through the channels of the Strait of Magellan along the coast of Chile. It was piloted through by Lieut. Dozas of the Chilean navy. The arrival of the Americans was greeted with enthusiasm by the people of the town.

Puerto Montt is a prosperous Chilean town on Tongo Island, a few miles off the coast, about 600 miles south of Valparaiso.

WILL PROBABLY BE DROPPED

PROPOSED DISMISSAL OF OLD DEPARTMENT CLERKS.

Many Members of the House Will Fight the Provision in the Legislative Bill.

The drastic superannuation provision in the legislative, executive and judicial appropriation bills the details of which have been published in The Star, is making enemies every minute. That provision will probably be reached late this afternoon, as the House is working hard on the bill today, and will probably go out in short order.

Chairman Tawney of the appropriation committee will make an argument favoring the retention in the bill of the superannuation clause. Several other members of the committee will support the chairman. But a host of other members, including Representative Goulden of New York, who delivered a hot speech on the provision yesterday, have promised to do all in their power to secure the elimination from the measure of this unjust and obnoxious paragraph.

Before the House met today dozens of members freely voiced the opinion that a faithful employee who has grown gray in the service, if he is to be dropped, is not just for Congress to enact the provision in short order.

Commissioner Ballinger's Experience

In connection with the discussion of the superannuation provision, the statement was made informally on the floor today that R. A. Ballinger, commissioner of the land office, whose resignation has been accepted and who will retire from the service March 4, to take up the practice of law in Seattle, was getting out of the government harness for no other reason than that under a milder form of superannuation clause, which has been in the legislative bill heretofore, he has been unable to do his duty and at the same time preserve his peace of mind. It was said by the member who told this story that Ballinger was the first man in the government service to endeavor to conscientiously carry out the terms of even this much milder form of the superannuation clause.

He proceeded along the line of what he considered his duty and began to dismiss some of the old-time employees under him whom he considered to be incapacitated for the work they were assigned to perform. He not only dismissed some, but demoted others. But he could not stand the result of his course of action.

"Why," Mr. Ballinger was quoted as saying by the member who told this story today, "I will resign rather than remain here in this office and have my nerves racked and my heart wrung by the pitiful stories these old-time employees tell of the poverty and misery that will be their lot as a result of demotion and dismissal. Many of these aged men and women have come to me, some of them begging and some of them weeping. But, on the other hand, I have taken the oath of office in which I promised to do my duty toward the government to the best of my ability and in a manner for the best interests of the service. I find myself between the two millstones, and am being ground to powder. I will resign."

And he did.

SHAH ASSASSINATION CANARD.

No Credence Attached to the Reports from Vienna.

LONDON, February 15.—No credence whatever is attached here to the reports from Vienna that the Shah of Persia had been assassinated. The charge d'affaires of the Persian legation in London declared today that there was no ground for apprehension, and that if anything had happened to the Shah the legation undoubtedly would have been notified.

A telegram received from Paris says the Persian minister to France received several telegrams from Tehran last night on ordinary business, and that no mention was made of any incident that could have occasioned the rumor.

BID FLEET GODSPEED

Admiral Exchanges Messages With Valparaiso.

GOOD WISHES FROM MONTT

President of Chile Congratulates Battleships' Commander.

REPORT RECEIVED FROM HICKS

Minister Tells the State Department the Review Was a Great Success—Everybody Happy.

VALPARAISO, February 15.—Two wireless dispatches have been received from the American Battleship fleet under Rear Admiral Evans, which was reviewed off Valparaiso yesterday, after which it continued on its way to Callao. One is addressed to Rear Admiral Simpson of the Chilean navy, and says:

"The commander of the Atlantic fleet begs you to convey to President Montt in the name of himself, his officers and men the appreciation of the honor he has done them by reviewing the fleet off Valparaiso. To this I add expressions of my personal regard and I hope I will have the pleasure of meeting you again. I send you my good wishes. EVANS."

Message to Hicks.

The other message is addressed to John Hicks, the American minister, and says: "I beg you to express to President Montt the thanks of the officers and men of my fleet for the many graceful acts of courtesy received at the hands of the Chilean government. I am sure the American people fully appreciate them and that they will go far toward cementing the friendship between the two nations."

Admiral Simpson replied to his communication as follows:

"Thank you. I am instructed to convey to the per to the United States minister to Chile, giving the following account of the visit of the United States battleship fleet to Valparaiso: A hearty farewell and a successful and prosperous voyage."

Passed the Chicago.

Mr. Hicks made the following answer: "I will deliver to President Montt your kind message. The whole review was all that any one could have desired, and I am proud of our fleet. Good-bye and God bless you."

The American cruiser Chicago, which left here three days ago for the Atlantic station, passed the battleship fleet off Constitution. She saluted both admirals, the American commander and Rear Admiral Simpson.

The Secretary of State today received a cable message from Mr. Hicks, United States minister to Chile, giving the following account of the visit of the United States battleship fleet to Valparaiso: A hearty farewell and a successful and prosperous voyage."

Led by Chacabuco, battleships single filed into harbor, out again. On reaching fort at entrance of harbor, whole fleet fired simultaneous salute and when passing in review, Chilean warship Baquedano, containing presidential party, each ship fired twenty-one guns separately. Day was holiday, weather perfect, thousands of people lined hills, and shipping in harbor was decorated with bunting. As fleet went out of sight I received Marconi message from Admiral Evans, stating all well and sending message of thanks to President Montt.

Spanked His Young Bride.

Special Dispatch to The Star.

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., February 15.—John Jackson, seventy years old, spanked his nineteen-year-old bride to cure her of going out at night, according to last night's story told in the police court last night, when he was arraigned for beating her. The young woman claimed

when she swore out the warrant that her aged spouse had attacked her with a razor, but this he denied.

"I tried every way to make her stay home where she belonged, Judge," he said, "and when I found there was no other way I turned her over my knee. Yes, sir, it cured her."

The magistrate let him off after he had promised not to spank his wife again.

SUICIDE BY HANGING.

Karl Rapp, Wanted in Germany for Arson, Ends Life in Prison Cell.

PHILADELPHIA, February 15.—After being pursued for more than ten years by detectives, the search taking them three times around the world, Karl Rapp, who was being held here to await a further hearing, charged with setting fire to a factory and dwelling in Rosswag, Germany, in 1890, was found dead in his cell at Moyamensing prison today, having committed suicide by hanging himself with strips of bedclothing to the bars of the cell.

Rapp was being held pending an investigation, the United States commissioner, before whom he had been arraigned, not being entirely satisfied that his identity had been entirely established. Rapp was arrested in Rochester, Pa., Monday on a warrant obtained by the German consul in this city, charging him with arson.

UNANIMOUS FOR BURTON.

Ohio Republicans Renominate Him to Succeed Himself in Congress.

CLEVELAND, Ohio, February 15.—Representative Theodore E. Burton was unanimously renominated by the republicans of the twenty-first congressional district today to succeed himself in Congress. No opposition to the nomination developed.

Representative Burton and Judge Fred L. Taft were selected as delegates for the twenty-first district to the national republican convention, to be held in Chicago in June. The alternates chosen were Thomas W. Fleming and Joseph Carabelli. The national delegates were instructed to vote for the nomination of Secretary of War William H. Taft as the presidential candidate.

Charles A. Otis was chosen presidential elector for the district.

FOUND DEAD IN HIS BED.

Indications Point to Brutal Murder of York Retired Citizen.

YORK, Pa., February 15.—David Heckert, aged eighty-five years, a well-to-do retired citizen of this city, was found dead in his bed today with his skull crushed. All indications point to murder. Mr. Heckert resided in the business center of the city. Members of the family today recall having heard indistinct calls of murder between 11 and 12 o'clock last night.

The tragedy is shrouded in mystery, as there is no apparent motive for the murder of the aged man, unless it was in hope of securing money. There was no evidence of robbery when the body was found.

IN SLOUGH OF DESPOND

NEW YORK ARTIST KILLS HIMSELF BY POISON.

Special Dispatch to The Star.

NEW YORK, February 15.—Edson L. Vandewater, a young artist to whom success had been slow in coming, killed himself with poison in a rear room of a Raines law hotel at 35th street and 7th avenue today.

Vandewater, who was only twenty-two years old, had always represented that he was a member of the old Schermerhorn family of New York, and a nephew of the Rev. Dr. George R. Vandewater, rector of St. Andrew's Church.

Dr. Vandewater said today that the suicide artist was no relative of his; that he had never heard of him. Men who had known young Vandewater said there was no question about his ability as an artist, but that he was a miser and a member of a prominent family. He was "down and out," they said, and was too proud to go to relatives for aid.

From a long list of addresses found on Vandewater it was learned that he lived with a family named Davis at 270 West 124th street. There his brother was killed by the police today.

"I will take charge of the body," said the brother. He refused to give further information to the police.

Asked to Be Locked Up.

CHICAGO, February 15.—I have had no financial troubles, no love disappointments, no domestic disturbances and my health is good, but if you do not lock me up I'll have to kill myself. Since early this morning I have been overwhelmed with a desire to kill myself. For heaven's sake take me in and lock me up."

This was the plea made at the Maxwell street police station last night by William Deam, twenty-nine years old, who arrived in Chicago from Philadelphia. He was placed in a cell.

Deam said that the moment he stepped into Canal street from the Union station he was overcome with a desire to commit suicide and became so nervous that he could not word a telegram which he intended sending to his father to acquaint him with the desire that had seized him.

Georgia Banker Ends His Life.

JACKSON, Ga., February 15.—The body of J. R. Carmichael, president of the First National Bank, and owner of a carriage factory, was found yesterday in McCord's mill pond, near here. He had been dead since Thursday night. A note written by Mr. Carmichael was later found in the bank stating that he did not commit suicide because of financial troubles, but because he felt that his mind was unbalanced. He asked that the note be posted in the bank window. This was done. The affairs of the bank are reported to be in a bad way. Mr. Carmichael was sixty years old.

Fatal Train Wreck on B. & O. Road.

CUMBERLAND, Md., February 15.—A rear-end collision between two extra freighters occurred on the Baltimore and Ohio railroad near Paw Paw, W. Va., this morning. Adam Smith, freight conductor, Martinsburg, W. Va., was killed, and about twenty cars and one engine were badly wrecked. All tracks were blocked and the tracks of the Western Maryland railroad were used to reach Cumberland. The Pittsburgh limited, westbound, came to Cumberland by that route six hours late.

"REIGN OF TERROR"

TEXT OF MR. SIMS

Representative Speaks on Crime in Washington.

POLICE FORCE INADEQUATE

Tennessean Declares Officer Is Needed on Every Corner.

PUTS BLAME ON SALOONS

Says City Is Infested With Idle Criminals, Who Are Responsible for Present Conditions.

The charge that a reign of terror exists in Washington was made in the House of Representatives today by Mr. Sims of Tennessee. He referred to the robbery last night in front of the British embassy, spoke of the inadequacy of the police force, and said that although there were within quick call by telephone a regiment of cavalry and a regiment of marines, their services had not been enlisted to run down the criminals.

The existence of what he termed "a reign of terror in Washington" was the text taken today by Representative Sims of Tennessee, when he secured ten minutes' time, during consideration in the House of the legislative appropriation bill. It was Mr. Sims who several weeks ago urged that the local police force be increased to one hundred men on the ground that women were afraid to go out after dark.

In his speech today Mr. Sims, spurred by the robbery last night on Connecticut avenue, declared that not one hundred men, nor two hundred men, could put a stop to the National Capital's reign of terror. He declared that the Washington police force was inadequate and spoke of policemen, including regular, park, Capitol, crossing and special, and was bound on the west by cavalry, on the south by artillery and on the east by marines.

A Helpless City.

"Any one would think," he declared, "that this armed force, every bit of which is within easy telephone call, would be sufficient to protect Washington from almost anything. And yet the city is absolutely helpless before the conditions of this reign of terror. What are we going to do about it?"

Chairman Tawney of the appropriations committee inquired whether Mr. Sims was arguing that the present force was inadequate or just merely incompetent.

"Listen, and before I get through you'll find out," rejoined Mr. Sims, without diverting the current